

Research planning

Determine type of study (i.e. quality assurance or full study) and scope (e.g. 48 or 72 hrs)



Registration

Inclusion criteria: Women expecting a fullterm, single, healthy infant, and planning to breastfeed. Include all parities and birth types. Collect prenatal information.



Data collection through labour or before cesarean section birth

Collect data: 1) amount of maternal IV and oral fluids from admission to birth; 2) amount of maternal IV fluids in final 2 hours before birth



Data collection post birth

For up to 72 hours, 1) weigh all diapers in 12 hour increments and 2) weigh the newborn every 12 hours including birth weight



Discharge

At discharge collect postpartum information. Assign confidential identification number to all data collection sheets and enter data in database.



Data analysis

Create new variables (e.g. percentage lost). Determine associations between 1) fluids and infant weight loss, 2) fluids and output, and 3) output and weight loss



Conclusions

Decide if data results warrant changing baseline for assessing newborn weight loss. Plan knowledge translation (e.g. policy and procedure changes) based on findings.